

## Friday Night Magic

School has begun and the family is hopping back into the full school-time blitz. There is homework to be done, practices and games to attend, and extracurricular activities in which to participate. Your own work load seems to have picked up. It's the back to reality blues and between it all, you try to squeeze in time with the family. With cell phones and wireless email, it sure seems as if we are never out of touch with this fast pace. Man, it feels hectic!

So let me suggest a chance to get away from it all and do something fun for you and your kids: attend the Indian Guide, Indian Princess and Trailblazer Campouts.

“Are you kidding?” you ask. “Add another event to an already hectic life.”

Yup! It's the sure fire cure. Read on.

I was recently at one of those dreaded corporate seminars at which we were discussing values. As I sat there pondering all the work awaiting me back at the office, the instructor spouted out a fact that struck me cold. Research suggests our children derive 90% of their values by the age of 10. Wow! By age 10 they have pieced together their value system. Those little minds are processing an extraordinary amount of material! By age 10 . . .

How do we get ahead of this curve and help our kids with their growth? It's simple: just be there! Our program of Guides, Princesses and Trailblazers provides an exceptional way to spend time with your kids: Head to a Campout! What a great way to devote time to your children! Better yet, make it two nights: Friday and Saturday.

Yes! Campouts offer both Friday and Saturday nights. Friday night is a bargain at 15 bucks. Take the Friday night opportunity. Seize it! Driving up Friday after work may seem rushed, but the payoff is extraordinary. Friday does not have a full blown attendance. Friday night is a bit of charming quiet time with just you and your kid. Plus your tribal chef will probably work his magic on the grill and fill up your belly with some tasty morsels. Since it's quiet you'll get a good night's rest and be ready on Saturday morning to spend a full day with your kids.

But what to do Saturday morning you ask? Our camps have their activities open after breakfast with many camps containing archery, a rifle range, canoeing, crafts, climbing walls and horses to ride. You will beat the Saturday afternoon rush, and if you want to do an activity again, there are no lines. But you don't just need Camp Activities to have fun with the kids.

The Hopi Guides have it figured out. After breakfast Saturday morning, the Hopi Guides hold an old fashioned, pick-up game of baseball with Dads and boys. On the Princess scene, I know of a tribe that has a craft for the girls on Saturday morning, after which the girls get their fingernails painted by one of the Dads. You ought to see the smiles on the girls' faces as they patiently wait to get their nails done.

Look at your calendar. Plan to take a break. Attend the campout. Better yet, attend both Friday and Saturday. Remember: 90% of your child's values are formed by age 10. Wouldn't you want to be a part of that 90%? You can do so, in part, by enjoying the campouts, especially the magic of Friday night. Invest in your kids. Besides, the chances are your children have been talking to their classmates all week about the campout weekend. What they're really saying is: “I want to spend time with Dad.” Take 'em up on it.

Silver Cloud: Tom Estey, Federation Chief